



Request for Applications (RFA) & Letters of Interest (LOI)

Q&A Session Summary Notes

Friday August 5, 2016

Request for Applications (RFA) and Letters of Intent (LOI):

What is due August 19th? Responses to both the RFA and LOI are due on 8/19. Applicants can submit either or both. Responses to the RFA will be reviewed by the Department for funding; responses via LOI will be considered as information only.

What is the point of the LOI? The idea for the LOI originated from focus groups the Department held to seek guidance on the development of the ROI. Potential applicants said that they had projects that may not be ready by the anticipated RFA deadline, but said that they wanted to make the Department aware of potential projects that may apply in one or more future rounds via a full application.

Matching Requirement:

Can the match include in-kind contributions and the value of donated property? Yes to both.

Application's maximum of 10 addresses:

What if my project has more than 10 addresses? We have provided a form that can be uploaded to include all project addresses. Any additional information can be uploaded to the on-line application as an attachment.

Historic Preservation:

Is preservation a priority? Yes, the Department is looking to stabilize historic structures in designated historic districts. Approximately 10% of funds used for demolition will be set aside for stabilization.

Operating Funds:

Can CORE funds be used for administrative or operational expenses? No, CORE is capital funding and the eligible uses are outlined in the RFA.

Can CORE funding be used for Architectural & Engineering drawings? Yes, with respect to construction level sets of drawings; No, with respect to conceptual level services.



Award Processing and Awardees:

If funded, how will awards be distributed? Eligible awardees – Baltimore City agencies and nonprofit Community Development Organizations (CDOs) – will enter into award agreements with DHCD. Once award agreements are executed, awardees can apply for reimbursement of eligible project expenses; awardees will receive payments from the State of Maryland which they can then distribute to their nonprofit and private sector partners.

Does the age of the CDO matter? CDOs are determined eligible by their by-laws and articles-of-incorporation, not age. However, track record and capacity are assessed as part of the rating and ranking process. If you have any questions regarding the eligibility of a CDO, please contact Kevin Baynes at kevin.baynes@maryland.gov

Award Timeline:

When will awards be announced? It is estimated that awards will be announced within 60 days of the application deadline, which is approximately the third week in October.

Homeownership vs. Rental and Affordable Housing vs. Market Rate:

Is there a priority? All of the above are eligible projects. The project must be supported by the surrounding neighborhood.

Loans:

If an award is made as a loan or a grant/loan combination, what will the terms be? Terms will be tailored to the specific needs of each project.

Award Limits:

Is there a maximum or minimum limit on the amount of Project CORE funding that may be requested for a specific project? There is no limit on request amounts, though DHCD is working with limited resources and has a desire to distribute funding throughout the City.

Local Resolution:

Is a local resolution from the City of Baltimore due at the time of application? No resolution is required. DHCD will work with the City directly on the applicants' behalf.